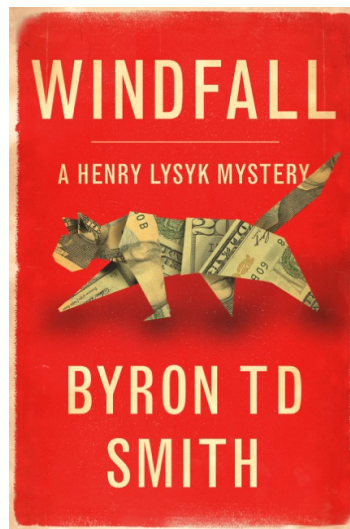


Windfall: A Henry Lysyk Mystery

By Byron TD Smith

A Book Club Discussion Guide



About the Book

Crossing fiction with a dash of true crime, *Windfall: A Henry Lysyk Mystery* is Byron TD Smith's clever "What if..." solution to the most captivating unsolved heist of the twentieth century.

Henry has hit rock bottom. A fifty-year old mystery could save him – or finish him off.

Henry Lysyk's life is a mess.

With his marriage over and his accounting career marred by scandal, he retreats to the anonymity of a rented suite in a house shared with strangers. But the trail of a decades-old crime leads a murderous treasure hunter to his doorstep, and Henry is baffled by his neighbors' cover-up.

An unexpected visit from his adventure-hungry niece, Frieda, further complicates Henry's efforts to lay low. With his houseguest refusing to stay away from the danger, Henry's terrified they're about to expose secrets someone would kill to protect. Not knowing who to trust, they must choose which parts of the past to uncover, and which to leave buried.

A real-life ransom, a shadowy past, unlikely allies, and ruthless murder. Can Henry unravel this cold case before he and Frieda become its next victims?

Discussion Guide

1. There is a true crime woven through the story in *Windfall*. When you learned of the crime, what did you think had happened to the criminal? And to the proceeds of the crime? How do you feel about the solution in *Windfall*?
2. What do you think of the book's title? How does it relate to the story? What other title might you choose?
3. What do you think of the book's cover? How well does it convey what the book is about?
4. In *Windfall*, Henry is accompanied by his niece Frieda, his niece on his ex-wife's side of the family. How do you think the story in *Windfall* might have been different if Frieda had been his daughter? Or a niece on his side of the family?
5. As they get to know each other, Henry and Tess spend an evening drinking wine, at which point Henry shares a dream. Henry believes this is a dream about his wanting to look after others. But, as she leaves, Tess turns his interpretation around: "*You know you're the cat, right?*" Do you agree with Tess? And, if so, do you think Henry changes over the course of the story in this regard?
6. Henry is accused variously of making up rules and coloring outside of the lines. What are your thoughts on how he lost his job at the bank?
7. Henry vacillates between wanting to involve the police and keeping them in the dark. What is driving his decision each step of the way?
8. There are themes of justice/fairness, and how one chooses to define "family". Do you see parallels between the various characters' arcs? Henry and Keller? Henry and Bernadette?
9. Tess nearly falls off of her seat in the police station when Frieda mentions Sarah's pregnancy. Why do you think her reaction is so strong?
10. Frieda spots something at the end of the story. What should happen next?

Bonus Question

11. Byron TD Smith compiled the following “mix tape” for the book. Do you agree? Do you have any songs to add?

- In the Air Tonight (Phil Collins)
- Black Swan (Thom Yorke [Explicit lyrics])
- Lovely Day (Bill Withers)
- Life’s What You Make It (Talk Talk)
- We Live in Brooklyn Baby (Roy Ayers Ubiquity)
- Baby Ran (54-40)
- A Forest (The Cure)
- Lazarus (David Bowie)
- Riders on the Storm (The Doors)
- Once (Pearl Jam)
- The Last of the Unplucked Gems (The Tragically Hip)

About the Author

Byron TD Smith lives on Vancouver Island. He writes mysteries when he isn’t accounting, motorcycling, or rambling in the coastal forest. He loves the smell of old books and coffee, and the sound of new wave music from 1987. The location of his secret underwater base remains undiscovered to this day.

Windfall: A Henry Lysyk Mystery is his debut novel.

Contact: btdsmith.com

Windfall: A Henry Lysyk Mystery By Byron TD Smith

Publication Date: January 2021

Genres: Fiction, Mystery, Crime, Amateur Detective

Hard cover: 326 pages

Publisher: Shima Kun Press (Canada)

ISBN 978-1-7753226-0-3 (paperback)

ISBN 978-1-7753226-1-0 (e-book)

ISBN 978-1-7753226-2-7 (hard cover)

ISBN 978-1-7753226-3-4 (large print)